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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF PEWSEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956





RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PEWSEY

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1956.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 17210. The excess of births over deaths during 1956 was 141 and the rate of natural increase is thus 8.2 per 1000 population. There were 298 (138 male and 160 female) births which gives a rate per 1000 population of 17.8 when corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 17.4 and that for England and Wales 15.7 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 157 deaths (91 male and 66 female) after correction for comparability was 10.3 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 11.7 and 9.7 per 1000 population.

The infant death rate (under one year of age) was 16.8 per 1000 live births, based on 298 such births and 5 infant deaths. The mean number of live-births and infant deaths during the period 1947-1956 gives an average infant death-rate of 25.1 per 1000 live births based on a mean of 302.2 live births and 7.6 infant deaths for the ten year period. The infant death rates for England and Wales and for the administrative county were respectively during 1956, 23.8 and 18.5 per 1000 live births.

There were five infant deaths under one year old, and four of these occurred under 4 weeks of age. The causes of death in infants were prematurity, one at 2 days; pneumonia two at 2 days; nephritis one at 3 months; and meningocele one at 9 months of age.

Death rate from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population for cancer (2.0 per 1000) pneumonia (0.3 per 1000) influenza 0.2 and bronchitis 0.5 per 1000 population. The proportional mortality rates of principal diseases (expressed as a proportion of the total deaths) during the year were : diseases of the heart and circulation, other than coronary disease 24.8 per cent ; vascular lesions of nervous system 11.5 per cent ; cancer 21.7 per cent ; coronary disease 10.2 per cent ; influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis 10.2 per cent.

The number of deaths at ages 65 years and over was 94 of which 39 occurred between the ages of 65 and 74 years, and 55 at 75 years and over.

The *incidence rate* per 1000 population of the following notifiable diseases in the Rural District during 1956 were whooping cough 1.0, scarlet fever 0.3 and dysentery 2.8.

Notifications of infectious diseases totalled 84 for the District during 1956.

Tuberculosis notifications which are included above numbered 10 during 1956 ; 9 were for the respiratory form of the disease.

208 children under 15 years of age were primarily inoculated against diphtheria during 1956 ; 135 of the number were under one year of age, and 52 between 1-5 years of age. In addition 157 children under 15 years of age were inoculated against whooping cough ; 108 of whom were under one year old.

The number of vaccinations against smallpox was 196 under one year ; there were 298 live births during 1956.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation on the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

*I have the honour to be,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

RODERICK MACKAY.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

7th May, 1957.

## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	T. F. HARDING, M.S.I.A., and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector	F. BOAM, M.S.I.A., and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector, up to 9.9.56. P. GLADWIN, M.S.I.A., and Cert. Meat and Food Inspector from 29.10.56.
Rodent Operator	P. N. RAISEY.

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts United Districts, viz. Amesbury R.D., Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and Marlborough M.B., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office. He holds, in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with welfare service for which it is mainly responsible.

The Chief Public Health Inspector, together with his assistant, carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the Public Health and Housing Committee of the District Council.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	.....	75828
Number of Parishes	.....	25
Population mid-1956 as estimated by the Registrar		
General	.....	17210
Number of inhabited houses (including 965 Council houses)	.....	4240
Number of new houses erected in 1956 :—		
By Private Enterprise	.....	24
By Local Authority	.....	36
Rateable Value	.....	£159421
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (estimated)	.....	£775

## VITAL STATISTICS

		M.	F.	Total
Live Births	.....	138	160	298
Legitimate	.....	130	154	284
Illegitimate	.....	8	6	14
Still Births	.....	2	3	5
Legitimate	.....	2	3	5
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	.....			17.8
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales				15.7
Number of Deaths from all causes	.....	91	66	157
Death Rate (corrected)	.....			10.3
Death Rate for England and Wales	.....			11.7
Deaths of Infants under one year :—				
Total	.....	2	3	5
Legitimate	.....	2	3	5
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births				16.8
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales				23.8

### NOTE :

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1956 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

### *BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE, 1956*

	<i>Pewsey R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	17.8	17.4	15.7
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	10.3	9.7	11.7
Death Rate of Infants under one year (per 1000 live births)	16.8	18.5	23.8

# PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1947-56

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Population .....	13780	14320	14310	*17850	*18950	*16470	*16330	*16760	*17270	*17210
Live Births .....	327	332	278	282	315	304	293	299	294	298
	23.7	23.2	19.4	15.8	16.6	18.5	17.9	17.8	17.0	17.3
Still Births .....	3	5	4	7	2	2	6	6	5	5
	13.6	9.1	14.8	30.9	6.3	6.5	20.0	19.7	16.7	16.5
Total Deaths .....	152	171	158	141	176	153	135	159	150	157
	11.0	11.9	11.0	7.9	9.3	9.3	8.3	9.5	8.7	9.1
Infant Deaths .....	17	6	7	5	6	6	12	6	6	5
	51.9	18.0	25.2	17.7	19.0	19.7	40.9	20.1	20.4	16.8
Tuberculosis Deaths .....	7	6	5	6	3	2	2	2	2	0
	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Cancer Deaths ' .....	23	24	23	21	18	17	15	25	22	34
	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.3	2.0
Pneumonia Deaths .....	13	6	4	6	12	7	10	13	7	5
	9.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.3

\* Includes armed forces as well as civilians

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.



## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The number of infective diseases notified in the Rural District during 1956 was 84 including 10 notifications in respect of tuberculosis. Of this number dysentery accounted for 49, whooping cough 17 and scarlet fever 5. There was no notifications in respect of poliomyelitis. The months of greatest incidence were June and December and the greatest number were notified in the 5-10 year age group.

The fifty cases or so of Sonne dysentery reported, involved a primary school ; and the most rigorous steps were necessary to arrest the outbreak, and finally to clear up persistent carriers. The mildness of the disease, amounting only to gastro intestinal upset, fails to bring home to parents the need for seeking medical advice early enough or at all ; and removal of excretors from school is in these circumstances unpopular, all of which militate against the chance of establishing control early.

Not only was hand washing strictly enforced at this school but advice was also given to individual parents on the nature of the infection, and on the common sense precautions that could be taken in the house to prevent it.

Probably an important factor in maintaining infection in school is the communal (roller) towel, and although the Education Authority provided adequate supplies of paper towels to meet the emergency, consideration could well be given to the provision of individual towels at all schools, as a measure in the control of contact spread disease.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

There were 9 notifications in respect of respiratory tuberculosis.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year in the Rural District.

## **DIPHTHERIA, IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION**

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at the welfare centre and at schools, under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

The number of children under one year old immunized during 1956 in the Rural District was 135 ; there were 298 births during the year. The total number primarily immunized under 15 years of age was 208. The following numbers were inoculated against diphtheria during the last ten years.



<i>Age Group (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										
	1947	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	'56	Total
Under 5	142	190	60	176	304	242	142	234	222	187	1899
5-15	20	142	29	42	34	43	22	46	35	21	434
Totals	162	332	89	218	338	285	164	280	257	208	2333

In addition 108 children under a year old, and 41 at one year of age were inoculated against whooping cough ; the total number so protected under 15 years of age was 157.

196 vaccinations against smallpox was performed during the year in the District, under one year of age.

# NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Scarlet fever .....	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Whooping cough .....	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	17
Dysentery .....	-	-	1	-	1	37	4	-	2	-	2	2	49
Erysipelas .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis ....	4	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	9
Other forms of tuberculosis .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals .....	4	2	6	1	2	40	5	1	2	2	3	16	84

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1956

Disease	Total	Age (years)												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	
Measles.....	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet fever .....	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Whooping cough .....	17	1	1	1	2	1	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery .....	49	1	4	3	2	-	20	7	1	7	3	1	-	
Erysipelas .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Meningococcal Meningitis .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals .....	74	2	5	5	4	1	34	9	1	8	4	1	-	

## **WATER SUPPLY**

The Avon Valley water supply scheme still awaits implementation despite the Council's representations as to the necessity for a wholesome water supply in this area. The principal water supplies are mostly protected by chlorination but the non-public supplies are not so controlled, and regular surveillance is necessary to ensure that a reasonable standard of purity is maintained, and gross pollution detected. The degree of pollution generally in existing supplies has made imperative regular periodic bacteriological sampling which is essential if the fullest control is to be exercised over these supplies of doubtful origin which are unsatisfactory, mostly polluted, and always liable to dangerous contamination.

## **SEWERAGE**

Sewerage in those areas within the District where the urgency is greatest is no less pressing than the need for public water supply, and potential nuisance from sewage effluent in open road drains will continue to exist just so long as the present conditions prevail. A comprehensive sewerage system is needed in the Avon Valley, as well as in those other populous areas where drainage facilities are at present unsatisfactory.

## **FOOD SUPERVISION**

There are in the area about 204 food premises detailed by type in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, including premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

Some 472 inspections were carried out in respect of food premises of one sort or another, including visits to registered premises.

Reference has been made in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector, to food hygiene as instanced by local tradespeople's pre-occupation with the Food Hygiene Regulations ; to premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the manufacture, storage, and sale of prepacked ice cream ; to the method of disposal of condemned foods ; and to milk sampling which has increased in frequency and must be maintained at a high level, as a public health measure.

There were no outbreaks of disease attributable to food during the year.

# CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1956

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ....	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other ....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease ....	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria ....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough ....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections ....	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis ....	—	—	—
8	Measles ....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	1	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasms, stomach ....	1	1	2
11	„ „ lung-bronchus ....	3	—	3
12	„ „ breast ....	—	3	3
13	„ „ uterus ....	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	10	26
15	Leukaemia, aleukamia ....	—	—	—
16	Diabetes ....	—	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ....	9	9	18
18	Coronary disease, angina ....	10	6	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease ....	2	—	2
20	Other heart disease ....	15	15	30
21	Other circulatory disease ....	5	2	7
22	Influenza ....	1	2	3
23	Pneumonia ....	1	4	5
24	Bronchitis ....	7	1	8
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ....	—	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ....	3	1	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ....	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations ....	—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	9	7	16
33	Motor vehicle accidents ....	1	—	1
34	All other accidents ....	2	—	2
35	Suicide ....	1	—	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—	—
Total all causes		91	66	157

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PEWSEY

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year which ended on 31st December 1956.

During the course of the year there have been no spectacular changes or developments in the scope of the work of the Public Health Department. It has rather been my aim to consolidate and improve those services which the Department gives to the inhabitants of the district.

For instance, during the year, the Slum Clearance programme began to get under way and a number of houses were either closed, reconditioned or demolished as a result of formal or informal activities on the part of the Department. A substantial contribution has been made to the improvement of housing conditions in the district by means of Improvement Grants, which as the Council will know, are intended to assist owners of old houses to bring them up to modern standards of comfort and amenity. Due to the credit squeeze, the Council found it necessary to reduce the total amount of money which could be spent on Improvement Grants, and also in conjunction with this to reduce the maximum grant from £400 to £250. This, however, did not result in a perceptible abatement in the number of grants applied for.

In respect of milk and water sampling, the objective was to increase the frequency and coverage of the sampling routine. The extent to which this was achieved is shown in the body of this report, although the routine sampling had to be somewhat curtailed while an

outbreak of dysentery was got under control, and also while extra meat inspection duties were undertaken due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease amongst cattle in this and adjoining districts.

In my report for 1955, I referred to concern caused by the delay in implementing the Council's main water and sewerage schemes, and I must confess that it is difficult to see that there has been any real improvement in this position during 1956. In several parishes in the district, drainage disposal methods are still medieval in character, and it is to be hoped that the Council will shortly be permitted to proceed with the comprehensive water and sewerage schemes which have been projected.

In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Council, and to my colleagues, for their support and assistance during the year,

*I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

T. F. HARDING.

*Senior Public Health Inspector.*



## STAFF

Senior Public Health Inspector	T. F. HARDING, M.S.I.A. (Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. as Public Health Inspector, and Certificate of the R.S.I. as Meat and other Foods Inspector).
Additional Public Health Inspector	F. BOAM, M.S.I.A. (Cert. of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. as Public Health Inspector, and Certificate of the R.S.I. as Meat and other Foods Inspector) to 9.9.56. P. GLADWIN, M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., (Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. as Public Health Inspector, and Certificate of the R.S.I. as Meat and other Foods Inspector) from 29.10.56.
Clerical Assistant and Trainee Public Health Inspector	L. T. JONES.
Rodent Operator	P. N. RAISEY.

## TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	363
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	299
Moveable Dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Visits made by Inspectors re Pest Control	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Visits made by Operator for Survey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	629
Visits made by Operator for Treatment	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	871
Building Inspections	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	238
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	434
Visits under Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
Visits under Housing Acts, 1936 to 1954	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	482
Overcrowding and Allocation of Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	295
Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Housing Survey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Infectious Diseases	.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	563
Slaughterhouse Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	40
Visits to Butchers, Fishmongers, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	38
Visits to Grocers and Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	76
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Visits to Food Preparing Premises Generally	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	41
Visits to Licensed Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Milk Sampling Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	198
Total Visits								4772

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1956

1.	Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.	
(a)	By Local Authority	36
(b)	Conversion of 1 Council House into 2 flats	4
(c)	Private Enterprise	24
2.	Inspection of Dwellings during the year.	
(i)	Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts	16
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under Housing Act	298
(iii)	Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	42
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	33
3.	Remedy of defects by Informal Action.	
	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	34
4.	Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts).	
(A)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	—
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	2
(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	1
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(C)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Acts, 1936.	
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	3
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	4
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted	2
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed	1
	Number of closing orders made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1953	1
(D)	Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(E)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground	

	rooms in respect of which closing orders were made....	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as a result of premises having been made fit	—
5.	Housing Acts, 1936—Part iv. Overcrowding.	
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year ....	—
(ii)	Number of cases discovered during year ....	4
(iii)	Number of cases abated during year ....	—

## HOUSING

As mentioned in the preamble to this report, the Council were able to begin during the year on their Slum Clearance programme. As will be seen from the table given below 18 houses were dealt with in one way or another during the year. I cannot pretend to be satisfied with this progress, good that it is, when it is borne in mind that there remain some 160 houses in the district which for one reason or another are unfit for human habitation and which should either be demolished, closed or reconditioned during the next four years.

In my report for 1955 I stated that the Slum Clearance problem in the district was greatly aggravated by large numbers of War Department owned houses which were unfit and from which the Council were expected to rehouse the occupants. I am glad to be able to report that as a result of representations made to the War Department, they have found it possible to reduce the number of houses owned by them which need to be demolished, or reconditioned, to 64. It would also be fair to mention that although I have previously complained of the War Department's immunity to the operation of the Public Health and Housing Acts, that during the year the War Department has in fact co-operated with the Council to a satisfactory extent in these matters.

I have mentioned in the preamble to my report the fact that the Council's Improvement Grant procedure has given satisfactory results. By the 31st December, 1956, grants in respect of seventy houses had been approved during the year, and the total number of houses to be improved by the assistance of grants since the inception of the scheme was 224 and of these, improvement works to 164 houses had been completed.

# TABLE SHOWING NUMBERS OF SLUM CLEARANCE HOUSES IN THE PARISHES IN THE DISTRICT

(Corrected to allow for houses which have been demolished, closed, or  
reconditioned during 1956)

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Category</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>W.D. Unit Houses</i>
	5B	5A		
Altons	9	1	10	—
Burbage	13	6	19	—
Charlton	4	—	4	—
Chutes	1	2	3	—
Collingbourne Ducis	7	2	9	—
Collingbourne Kingston	8	3	11	—
Easton Royal	6	—	6	—
Enford and Chisenbury	9	4	13	8
Everleigh	3	—	3	2
Haxton and Fittleton	1	—	1	13
Ludgershall	10	3	13	—
Manningford	2	8	10	—
Milton Lilbourne	1	2	3	—
Netheravon	2	0	2	—
North Newnton	2	2	4	—
North Tidworth	—	—	—	23
Oare	—	1	1	—
Pewsey	5	13	18	—
Rushall	—	2	2	—
Upavon	8	4	12	2
Wootton Rivers	4	4	8	—
Woodborough	1	3	4	—
Wilsford	—	—	—	—
Wilcot	—	4	4	—
Total	96	64	160	64
Total at 31.12.1955	(110)	(68)	(178)	(110)

## NOTE :

Houses in Category 5B are ones which it would be uneconomic and impracticable to recondition, due to gross structural defects, congestion and other causes.

Houses in Category 5A are those which are unfit, but which could be reconditioned at unreasonable cost.

## WATER SUPPLY

During 1954 the Department had endeavoured to take samples from water supplies for which the Council was responsible on a quarterly basis, and during 1955 this was increased to once every two months. During 1956 the aim was to take a monthly sample from each supply for which the Council is responsible. This has resulted, of course, in a steady increase in the total number of samples taken, as follows :

1953	—	45 samples taken
1954	—	95 samples taken
1955	—	145 samples taken
1956	—	205 samples taken

In addition to the supplies for which the Council are responsible, there are in various parishes small individual farm or estate supplies which during the course of time have been extended to supply quite significant numbers of houses. For that reason the same frequency of sampling was applied during 1956 to supplies of this kind, and during the year 114 samples were taken from private supplies of one kind or another, although it must be borne in mind that a substantial number of those were taken from individual wells and bores as a result of a public health or housing investigation, or after a request of the user of the supply in question.

The Council will be aware that sampling of a frequency of this kind must take up a substantial proportion of the Department's time. That this time is in no way wasted is borne out by a recent Ministry of Health publication "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies."

Quoting from this publication "In the past the practice among many water undertakings was to have complete chemical and bacteriological examination of their water supplies made at infrequent intervals, such as three months or so, and to trust that the water supplies in between these examinations would not undergo any substantial deterioration . . . . the objection to this practice is that it affords no effective control over the quality of the water supplied during the greater part of the year. There are extremely few supplies of any size so circumstanced that regular bacteriological control is unnecessary. In the great majority, contamination, as is well known, may occur at any moment and may come from numerous different sources . . . . Unless frequent examinations are made, disease may break out among the population before any suspicion is cast on the water." The publication goes on to point out that it is impossible to prescribe schedules setting out the frequency with which bacteriological tests should be made, and my own feeling is that for a rural district, once monthly as a general routine is adequate, with a more frequent regime of sampling for supplies which have shown themselves to be of a suspicious character. During the year the larger main supplies have maintained a generally satisfactory degree of purity, and regular sampling has enabled any contamination to be quickly detected and dealt with.

During the year further progress was made with the Council's



district water scheme. The mains were laid in the parishes of Milton Lilbourne and Easton Royal, together with the hamlet of New Mill, where a supply of adequate purity was most urgently needed. The inhabitants of this hamlet had been drinking water from a small collecting chamber, which derived its supplies from a stream and which at no time of sampling was ever found to be free of contamination by faecal coli. This mains extension through Easton Royal and Milton Lilbourne was eventually linked up to the Pewsey main supply, which has been failing for some years. Pewsey now derives its water from the boreholes at Collingbourne Kingston, and this connection has enabled the number of samples taken to be reduced. Also during the year the sinking of a deep borehole at Compton for the Council's Avon Valley Scheme was completed. Test pumping was carried out and samples for bacteriological analysis were taken from the bore during each day of the pumping test. Yield and purity of the water were generally satisfactory. This Scheme is now before the Ministry and it is to be hoped that in view of the very high incidence of contamination of wells in the Avon Valley (during a recent check it was found that 27% of the 76 wells which have been sampled in the Valley were contaminated with both faecal and B. coli and 46% with B. coli only) that Ministerial approval to the progress of the Scheme will not be delayed.

## **PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES**

### **PEWSEY**

During the part of the year during which the water was derived from the original deep well, seven bacteriological samples were taken, six of which were satisfactory and one of which was unsatisfactory, showing minimal non-faecal contamination. The water is alkaline with PH value of 7.2 and a total hardness of 21.8. 95% of the houses in the parish are connected to the supply and an estimated 1% of these rely on stand pipes.

### **LUDGERSHALL**

The water is purchased in bulk from the Andover Rural District Council and is chlorinated. It is alkaline with a PH value of 7.4 and a total hardness of 22.0. It is estimated that 95% of the houses in the parish obtain water from this source, and of these, 1% rely on stand-pipes. One chemical sample was taken and proved satisfactory, and nine bacteriological samples, all of which were satisfactory.

### **CHUTE**

The supply for this parish is derived from the same source as that for Ludgershall and with exception of some isolated houses, the majority of houses in the parish are served by the main. Two samples were taken for bacteriological analysis one of which showed a very small degree of non-faecal contamination.



## COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON AND DUCIS

The water is obtained from a deep bore and is chlorinated. It is alkaline and has a PH value of 7.3. The total hardness is 26.0. It is estimated that 95% of the houses in the two parishes are connected to the supply. One chemical sample was taken and proved satisfactory, nine bacteriological samples were taken eight of which were satisfactory, one showing a very small degree of non-faecal contamination.

## BURBAGE

This parish is now supplied from the borehole at Collingbourne Kingston. Two bacteriological samples were taken in the parish and both proved satisfactory. The great majority of the houses are now connected to the main.

## EASTON ROYAL AND MILTON LILBOURNE

Water is now available in these two parishes from the Council's borehole serving the Collingbournes and Burbage. At the end of the year connections to the main were still proceeding.

## WOOTTON RIVERS

The water is obtained from a deep well, and is chlorinated. It is alkaline with a PH value of 7.1. The total hardness is 27.2. The great majority of the houses in the parish are supplied from the main. Eight bacteriological samples were taken during the year, six of which were satisfactory, and two of which showed evidence of non-faecal contamination.

## EVERLEIGH

The water supply for this village is obtained from a War Department owned source. The great majority of the houses in the parish are connected to it. Ten samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, and all of them were satisfactory.

## NORTH TIDWORTH

The water for this parish is obtained from a War Department owned source and the great majority of houses in the parish are connected to it. Ten samples were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

## OTHER WATER SUPPLIES

### ENFORD

The majority of the War Department property, and the Council estate is supplied from a War Department main. The water is chlorinated. Ten bacteriological samples were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

### COOMBE

The small number of Council houses, and some of the private houses

in this hamlet are supplied from a private farm source. Thirteen samples were taken from it during the course of the year, nine of which were satisfactory, and four of which showed slight non-faecal contamination.

#### NETHERAVON

Some of the War Department owned houses, and the whole of the Council Estate are supplied from the main supply owned by the War Department, the water being derived from the River Avon. The water is chlorinated. Nine bacteriological samples were taken during the year, six of which proved satisfactory, the others showing slight faecal and non-faecal contamination.

#### HAXTON AND FITTLETON

The majority of the houses in this parish rely on individual wells. The new Council houses are supplied from a borehole, the water being chlorinated. Six bacteriological samples were taken from this source during the year and all of them were satisfactory. The old Council houses are supplied from a communal well with a hand pump. Nine bacteriological samples were taken from this source during the year, five of which showed faecal and non-faecal contamination, in varying degrees. As a result, the Council are seeking to connect these houses to the supply to the new Council houses.

#### ALTON BARNES AND ALTON PRIORS

The greater number of the houses in the villages and the two Council estates are supplied from a private estate piped supply. Eight samples were taken during the year, seven of which were satisfactory, and one of which showed a very small degree of non-faecal pollution.

#### EASTON ROYAL

Until the advent of the Council's main water scheme during 1956 the post-war Council houses and some privately owned houses in the parish derived their water from a private piped supply. Five samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, four of which were satisfactory and one of which showed a slight degree of pollution with non-faecal organisms. The old Council houses relied upon a communal well which had had a most unsatisfactory history over a period of years. During 1956, four bacteriological samples were taken, all of which showed varying degrees of contamination with both faecal and non-faecal organisms. It is satisfying to record that both these Estates now obtain their water from the main supply.

#### MILTON LILBOURNE

Until the completion of the Council's main water scheme part of the parish was served by a private supply which was un-chlorinated. The post-war Council estate derived its water from a borehole, also unchlorinated. Six samples were taken from this bore during the year, four of which were satisfactory and two of which showed a small degree

of non-faecal pollution. The old Council houses relied upon a communal well. Seven samples were taken from this supply during the year, two of which showed evidence of non-faecal pollution. Both these estates are now connected to the Council's main supply.

#### BOTTLESFORD

The post-war Council estate is supplied with un-chlorinated water from a borehole. Nine samples were taken during the year, seven of which were satisfactory, and two showed a very small degree of non-faecal pollution.

#### HILCOTT

The pre-war Council house estate rely upon communal wells. Nine samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, eight of them being satisfactory and one showing slight non-faecal pollution.

#### UPAVON

A few houses in this parish are connected to a private supply, the remainder relying upon individual and communal wells. The Council houses are supplied with un-chlorinated water from a borehole. Nine samples were taken during the year from this borehole, two of which showed evidence of slight non-faecal pollution.

#### WILCOT

There is a private piped supply in this village, supplying a number of privately owned houses. This supply has been sampled regularly during the year, nine samples being taken in all, five of which showed varying degrees of non-faecal contamination, the remainder being satisfactory. The Council estate is supplied with unchlorinated water from a borehole. Ten samples were taken during the year, nine being satisfactory, and one showing a very slight non-faecal contamination.

#### WOODBOROUGH

All the houses in this parish are served by private wells with the exception of the post-war Council Estate which derives unchlorinated water from a borehole. Eight samples were taken from this source, four of which were satisfactory, and the others showing a slight non-faecal pollution. The pre-war Council houses rely on communal wells with hand pumps. Ten samples were taken, only two of which were satisfactory, the remaining eight showing varying degrees of faecal and non-faecal contamination.

#### OARE

The majority of houses in the parish rely upon individual and communal wells for their water supply. The post-war Council Estate obtains its water from a borehole, the supply being unchlorinated. Ten samples were taken during the year, five of which were satisfactory, five showing varying degrees of non-faecal contamination.

## WILSFORD

The great majority of the houses in this parish are supplied from a private estate supply which is unchlorinated. Nine bacteriological samples were taken from this supply during the year, four being satisfactory, five showing a slight degree of non-faecal pollution.

## CHARLTON

Almost all the houses in this parish derive their water from a private estate supply. Nine bacteriological samples were taken during the year, seven of them being satisfactory and two showing a very small degree of non-faecal pollution.

## RUSHALL

A similar private piped supply serves almost all the houses in the parish. Nine samples were taken during the year for bacteriological analysis, five proved satisfactory, four showing a very small degree of non-faecal pollution.

## MANNINGFORD

The majority of the houses in this parish derive their water from individual and communal wells. The Council houses erected during the year are supplied from a borehole. The water is chlorinated. Nine samples were taken during the year, all of them proving satisfactory.

## DRAINAGE

During 1956 no major works of sewerage have been undertaken by the Council. Plans are in hand for a comprehensive sewerage scheme for the Avon Valley and also for the parish of Burbage where it will be difficult for the Council to build any more Council houses until such time as a comprehensive sewerage scheme is available. The great majority of houses outside the parishes of Pewsey, Ludgershall and Everleigh continue to rely on bucket closets, but this number has been reduced to some extent by the use of Improvement Grants to provide improved houses with septic tanks, and of course all new houses erected since the war have also been provided with septic tanks. Every year I find it necessary to refer to the open drainage ditches in the parishes of Collingbourne Kingston, Charlton, Upavon and Netheravon which cause a considerable and continuing public health nuisance. In the parishes of Woodborough and Collingbourne Kingston it has been possible to reduce the nuisance considerably by the installation of soakaways and septic tanks to those premises which were connected to the ditches, but in other parishes referred to the only solution to these long-standing nuisances is the provision of proper sewerage systems. Vigilance is continually necessary to ensure that such nuisances do not arise in ditches in other parishes. It is, however, a difficult position to maintain because in certain parishes in the district, drainage through the green sand sub-soil is very difficult and the natural tendency is to use the ditches for drainage purposes, especially in those parishes which have recently been provided with a main water scheme.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Reference is made to infectious diseases in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. I should like, however, to refer to the outbreak of Sonne Dysentery which was centred upon the Primary School, Ludgershall, and was dealt with under the Medical Officer of Health's general supervision. The control of this outbreak of Dysentery proved to be exceedingly difficult, and although only fifty-one cases of the disease were actually confirmed, during the investigation and control of the outbreak no less than 547 faeces specimens were collected for submission to the Laboratory, 126 of them proving positive. Of the 51 cases referred to above a substantial number were 'found' by the investigating officers amongst contacts of the notified cases: many of them were symptomless, and it does seem that outbreaks of this kind will become increasingly difficult to control due to the numbers of "carriers" and "missed cases" that occur with each outbreak of this infection.

At the same time I am perfectly satisfied that the considerable effort needed to bring these outbreaks under control is worth making, and that the policy of investigation of suspicious cases and the exclusion of infected children from school is fully justified by the results obtained. Proof of this lies in the numbers of infected persons found in this outbreak who would not otherwise have been treated, and who could have unwittingly spread the infection still further.

## MEAT INSPECTION

During the year slaughtering on a modest scale for human consumption continued at the one licensed slaughterhouse in the district, which is situated in the parish of Pewsey. The butcher in question provides for his own clientele only, and supplies for the other butchers' shops in the district are obtained from the larger factory slaughterhouses in Salisbury and Swindon. However, during the months of September, October and November, there was a severe outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in this and adjoining districts in Wiltshire, and as a result a great deal of slaughtering took place in the Pewsey slaughterhouse of food animals which could not be moved out of the district alive. This slaughtering was concentrated mostly during the weekends, necessitating a great deal of overtime meat inspection, and during this period some 753 calves, 164 sheep, one cow and one heifer were killed and inspected:

A table showing the number of carcasses inspected and the reasons for any condemnations is given below. There is one licensed knacker's yard in the district, and I have to report that it was satisfactorily conducted throughout the year.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	25	1	758	182	16
Number Inspected	25	1	758	182	16
All Diseases except Tuberculosis, whole carcase condemned	3	—	3	1	1
All diseases except Tuberculosis, Part or Organ condemned	1	1	1	—	—
% of No. Inspected infected	16	—	.52	.54	6.25
Tuberculosis only, whole carcase con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only, Part or Organ con- demned	2	—	—	—	1
% of No. Inspected infected	8	—	—	—	6.25

*Cysticercus Bovis*: One heifer affected—head condemned, carcase consigned to cold store.

### FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY

Given underneath is a table showing the types of food trades carried on in the district. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year which were attributable to infected food, but as I stated in my report for the previous year this gives no cause for complacency either among food handlers or the Department. The new Food Hygiene Regulations have provided Local Authorities with a more sensible and workable code for the enforcement of elementary hygiene facilities and practices in food premises than existed before, but this does not alter the fact that the greatest improvements in food hygiene will come from an awakening of interest in the subject in the food handlers themselves.

To awaken this interest is the difficulty: in my view, Food Hygiene exhibitions, and the like, although they have their part to play, cannot ever approach in effectiveness the patient teaching by the Inspector on his routine visits to food premises. Nor should we discount the value of public opinion in this matter: I have found the Women's Organisations valuable allies in the past.

Many traders are, of course, alive to the necessity for proper hygiene in food premises, and I should particularly like to express my thanks to the Pewsey Chamber of Commerce for their invitation to



explain to them the implications of the new Regulations. Such meetings can do nothing but good, and the Department will welcome, and indeed look out for, further opportunities of this kind.

Butchers	....	....	....	....	....	8
Bakers	....	....	....	....	....	13
Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	30
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	....	5
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cafes	....	....	....	....	....	13
Fishfryers	....	....	....	....	....	4
Food Factories	....	....	....	....	....	3
Licensed Houses	....	....	....	....	....	44
General Stores	....	....	....	....	....	17
Registered Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	4
Registered Distributors	....	....	....	....	....	11

Registered Premises (Food and Drugs Act, 1938) Section 14.

For the storage and sale of ice-cream (pre-packed)	....	43
For the Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream....	1	
For Fishfrying	....	4
For Sausage Manufacturing	....	5

Condemned meat and offal from the slaughterhouse is sprayed with a penetrating green dye and is then collected by a merchant who is engaged in the processing of waste meat products. Condemned tinned foods and foods of other kinds are collected by the Council and disposed of at the refuse tip.

## MILK

During 1956 the programme of regular milk sampling first begun in 1954 was again extended and it will be seen from the table given below that there was, in spite of certain discolations in the routine work of the Department, to which I have referred in the preamble to this report, an increase in the number of samples submitted to the statutory tests. The programme of sampling was amended as a result of consultations with adjoining Local Authorities to ensure that no overlapping occurred. For that reason and because of the greater safety from a public health point of view of pasteurised milk, it will be seen that the number of samples of pasteurised milk taken was reduced, whereas the number of samples of raw milk submitted to the statutory and biological tests was substantially increased.

It is significant that during the three years in which regular milk sampling has been undertaken, that although the number of samples taken has increased considerably, the number of samples which failed the statutory tests has declined to the point whereby it was less than a half in 1956 of what it was in 1954.

There has been an increase in the sale of sterilised milk in the District, and arrangements were made to take samples of this milk which

were submitted at regular intervals to examination for adequate sterilisation. All the samples of this sterilised milk proved satisfactory.

Only four samples of ice-cream were taken during the year for submission to the statutory tests: all of them proved satisfactory. It is intended that an increased number of samples of ice-cream will be taken during 1957.

	1954	1955	1956
Samples subjected to Methylene Blue test ....		99	142
Samples subjected to Phosphatase test ....	81	87	49
Samples failing Methylene Blue or Phosphatase test ....	19	13	9
Samples subjected to biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacillus	45	120	143
Samples showing Positive T.B. reaction ....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Samples subjected to Turbidity Test ....	Nil	Nil	8

### RODENT CONTROL

In my report for 1955 I noted that the number of properties treated by the Council's Rodent Operator showed a decline for the first time since 1951. In 1956 203 properties of all kinds were disinfested as opposed to 205 in 1955. Although the number of properties disinfested has shown a decline since 1954, there has been no relaxation in the Rodent Operator's survey activities and it is only by vigilance of this kind that the rat population of the district will be kept down. No test-bating was carried out during the year in the Pewsey and Ludgershall Sewerage systems as these systems have a long record of being rat free. Regular disinfestations were carried out at the various sewage works however, and at the Council's refuse tip.

### FACTORIES

Number of factories without mechanical power—18.

Number of factories with mechanical power—34.

28 visits of inspection were made to factories and bakehouses with mechanical power during the year and any defects found therein were dealt with by informal action.







*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,  
Marlborough.*